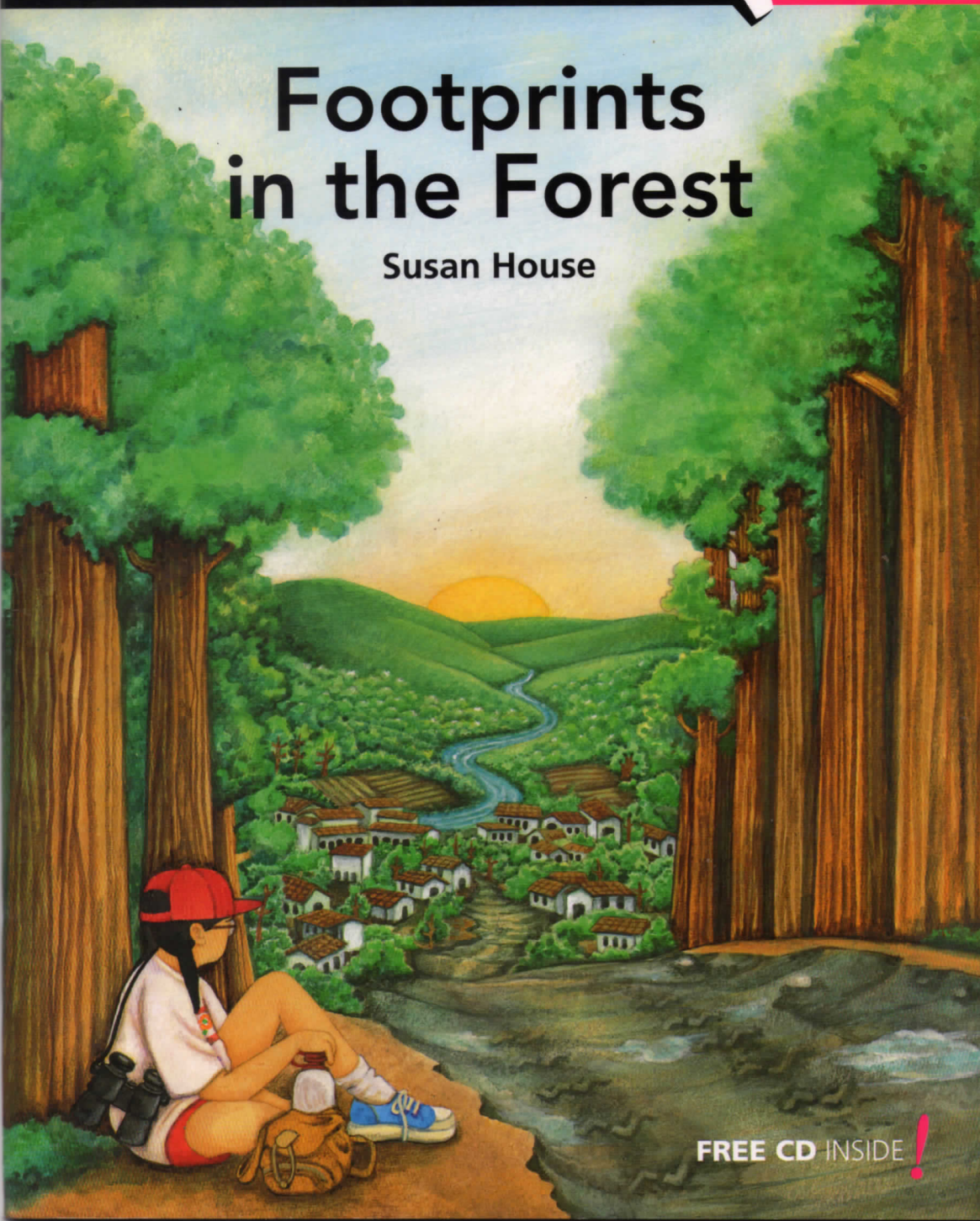
Richmond
PRIMARY READERS

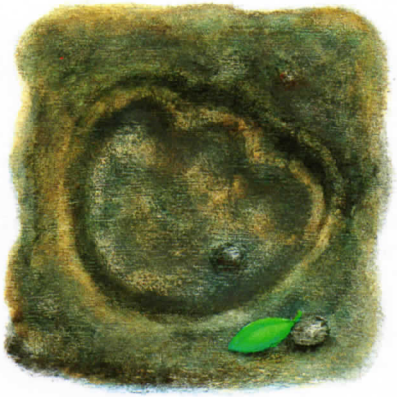
Footprints in the Forest

Susan House



FREE CD INSIDE!

PRIMARY READERS
FLYERS

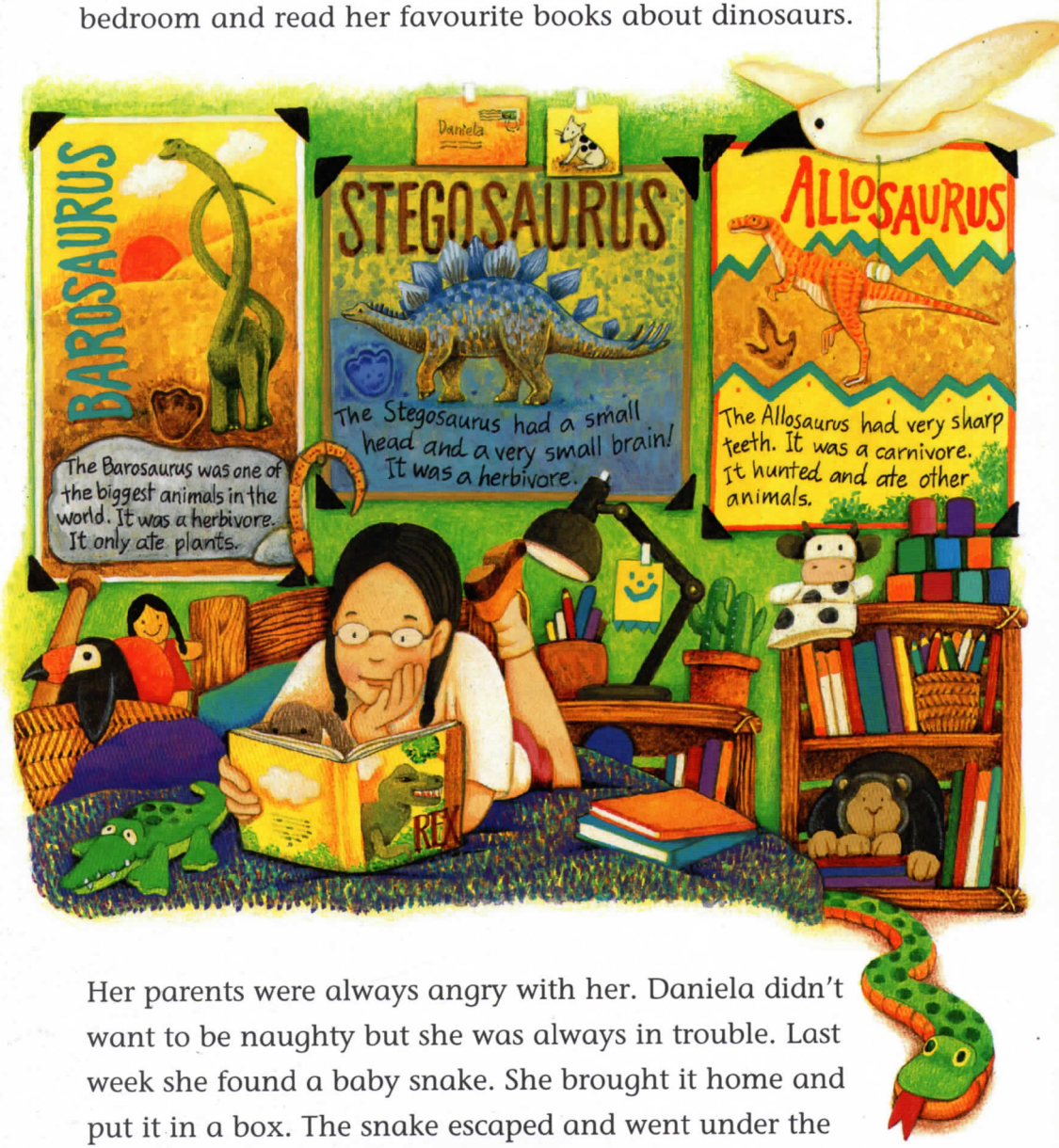


Footprints in the Forest

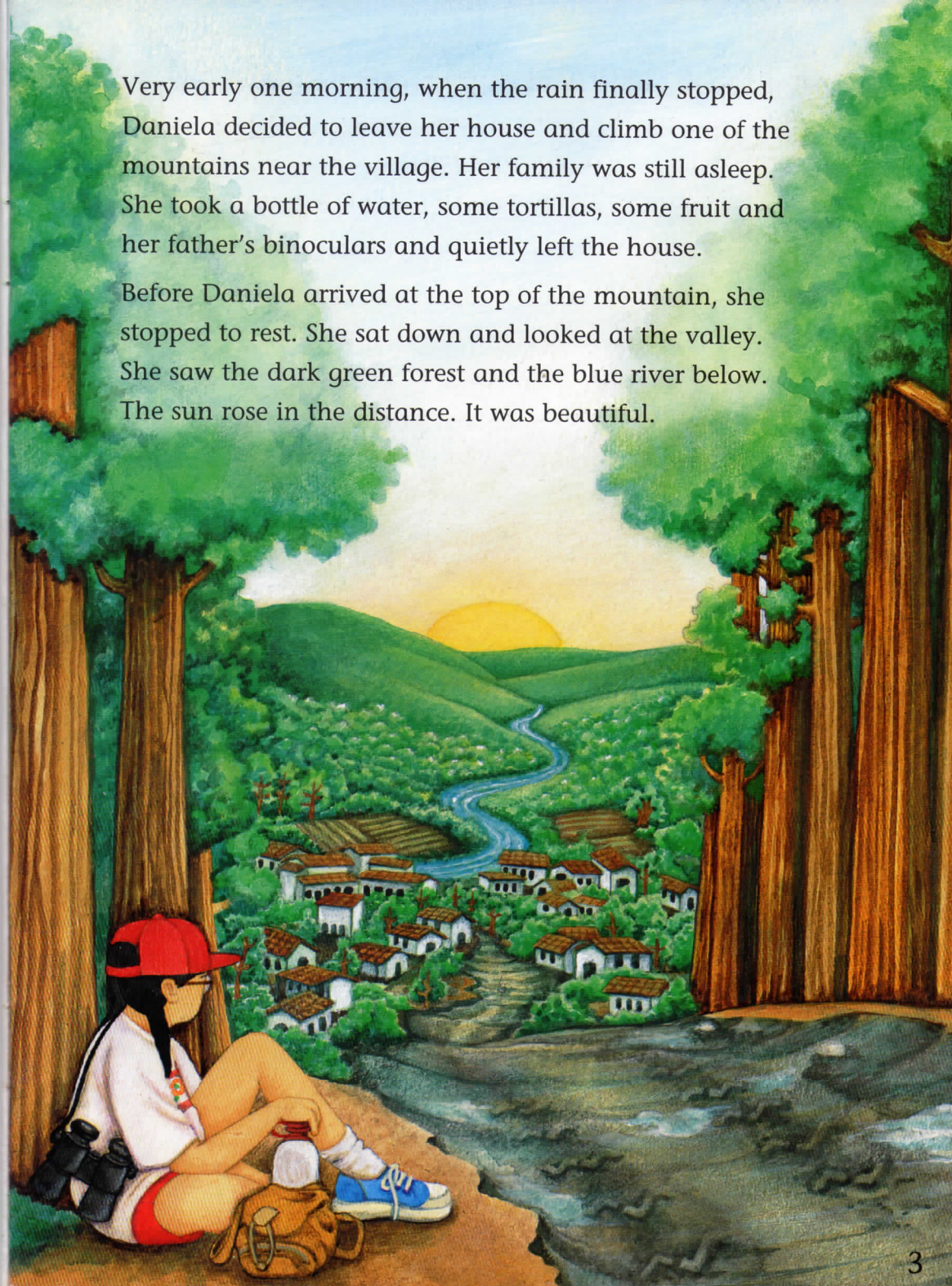
Susan House
Illustrator: Martha Avilés

Richmond PUBLISHING

That spring, it rained hard for three days. Daniela couldn't go out. She hated staying inside, especially when her parents were angry with her. So she sat in her bedroom and read her favourite books about dinosaurs.

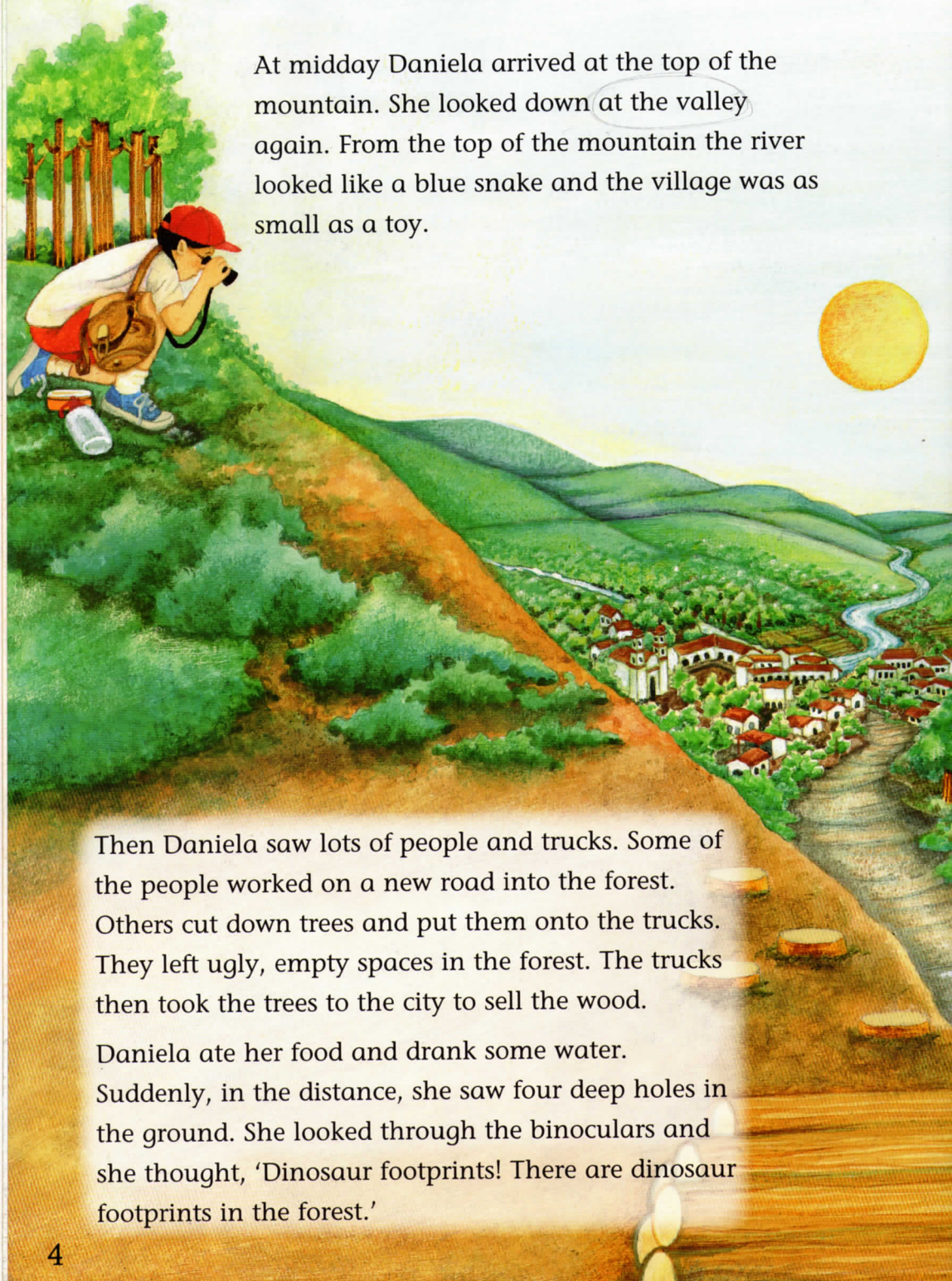


Her parents were always angry with her. Daniela didn't want to be naughty but she was always in trouble. Last week she found a baby snake. She brought it home and put it in a box. The snake escaped and went under the sofa. All the family were angry with her once again.



Very early one morning, when the rain finally stopped, Daniela decided to leave her house and climb one of the mountains near the village. Her family was still asleep. She took a bottle of water, some tortillas, some fruit and her father's binoculars and quietly left the house.

Before Daniela arrived at the top of the mountain, she stopped to rest. She sat down and looked at the valley. She saw the dark green forest and the blue river below. The sun rose in the distance. It was beautiful.



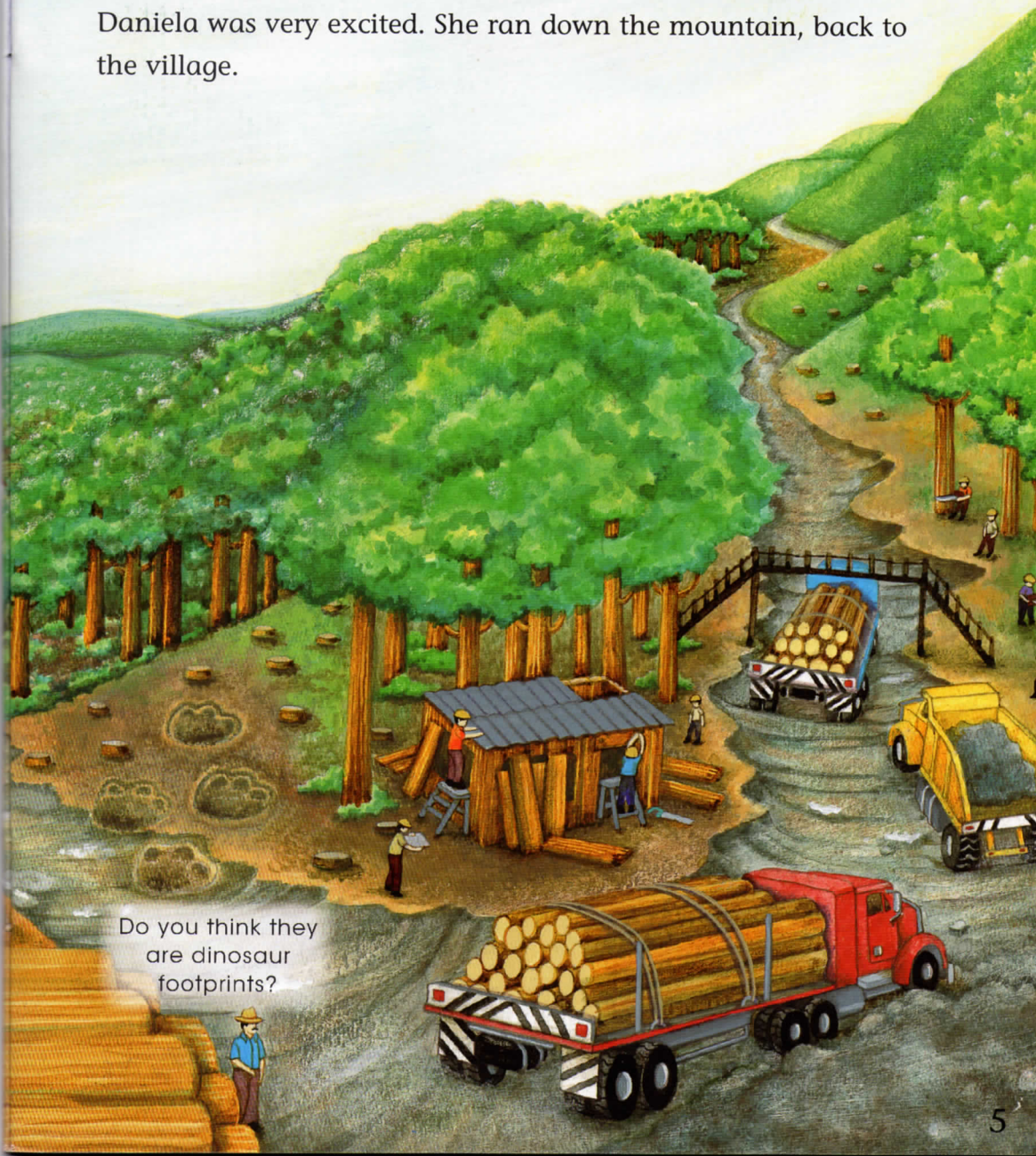
At midday Daniela arrived at the top of the mountain. She looked down at the valley again. From the top of the mountain the river looked like a blue snake and the village was as small as a toy.

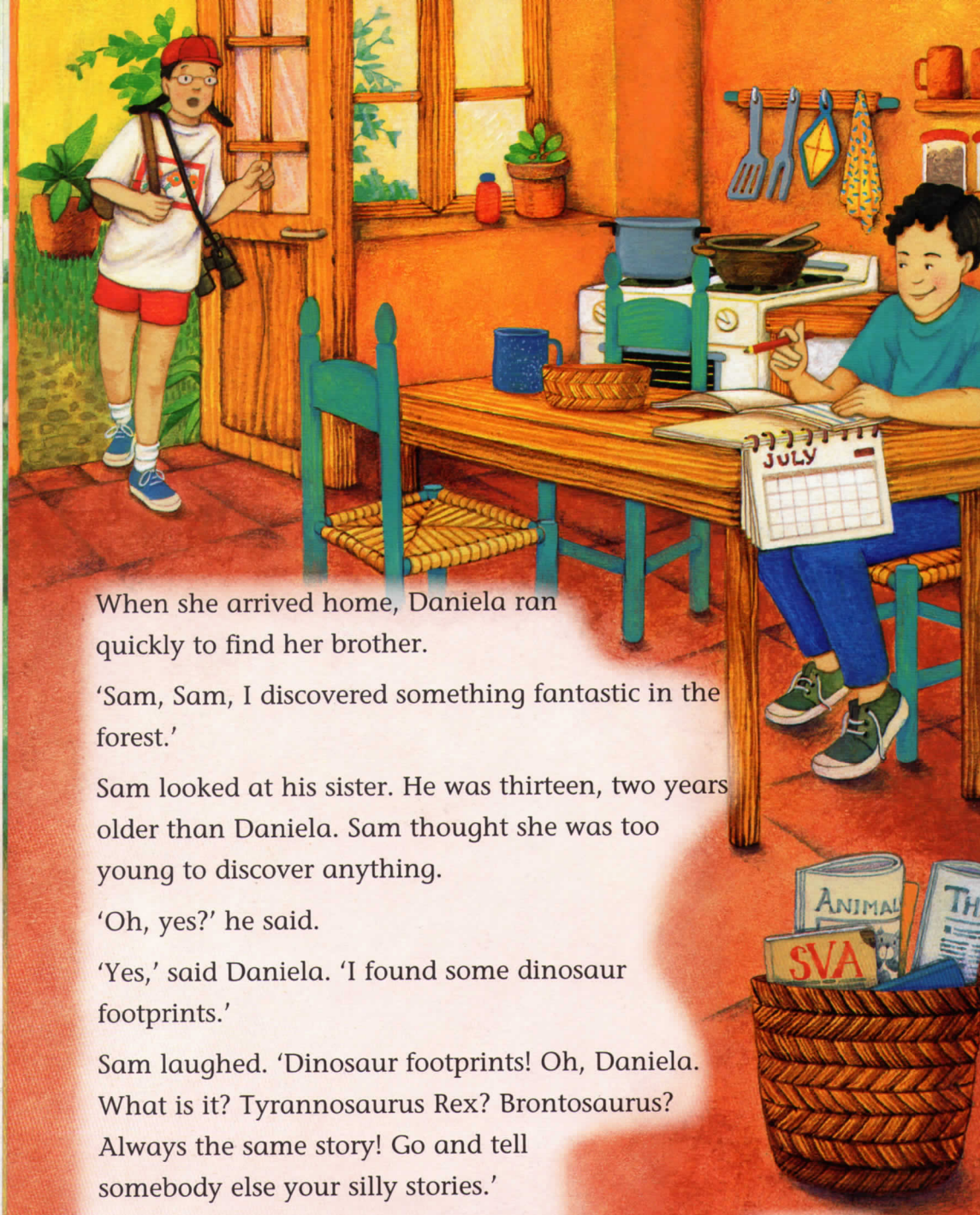
Then Daniela saw lots of people and trucks. Some of the people worked on a new road into the forest. Others cut down trees and put them onto the trucks. They left ugly, empty spaces in the forest. The trucks then took the trees to the city to sell the wood.

Daniela ate her food and drank some water. Suddenly, in the distance, she saw four deep holes in the ground. She looked through the binoculars and she thought, 'Dinosaur footprints! There are dinosaur footprints in the forest.'

She thought, 'I must tell Sam, then he can stop laughing at me.'

Daniela's brother, Sam, often laughed at her. He thought she was silly because she loved dinosaurs. She also wanted to tell her friend, Mario. He was interested in dinosaurs, too. Daniela was very excited. She ran down the mountain, back to the village.





When she arrived home, Daniela ran quickly to find her brother.

'Sam, Sam, I discovered something fantastic in the forest.'

Sam looked at his sister. He was thirteen, two years older than Daniela. Sam thought she was too young to discover anything.

'Oh, yes?' he said.

'Yes,' said Daniela. 'I found some dinosaur footprints.'

Sam laughed. 'Dinosaur footprints! Oh, Daniela. What is it? Tyrannosaurus Rex? Brontosaurus? Always the same story! Go and tell somebody else your silly stories.'

He walked outside. Daniela ran after her brother. She was very excited.

How old is Daniela?

'Listen to me, Sam,' she said, and she pulled his T-shirt. 'I climbed the mountain this morning and I saw the footprints myself. They're in the middle of the new road. The rain washed the earth away and now you can see them clearly.'

'Dinosaur footprints!' said her brother with a laugh. 'You have a very good imagination, little sister.'

'It's true. I'm going to ask Mario to come with me to see them.'

'That's a good idea,' said Sam. 'You can play dinosaur detectives together.'

Mario was very surprised and excited when he heard the story.

'Look! It says in my book, "There are lots of dinosaur fossils in this part of Mexico", ' he said. ' "A meteorite fell into the sea near here. It changed the climate of the world." '

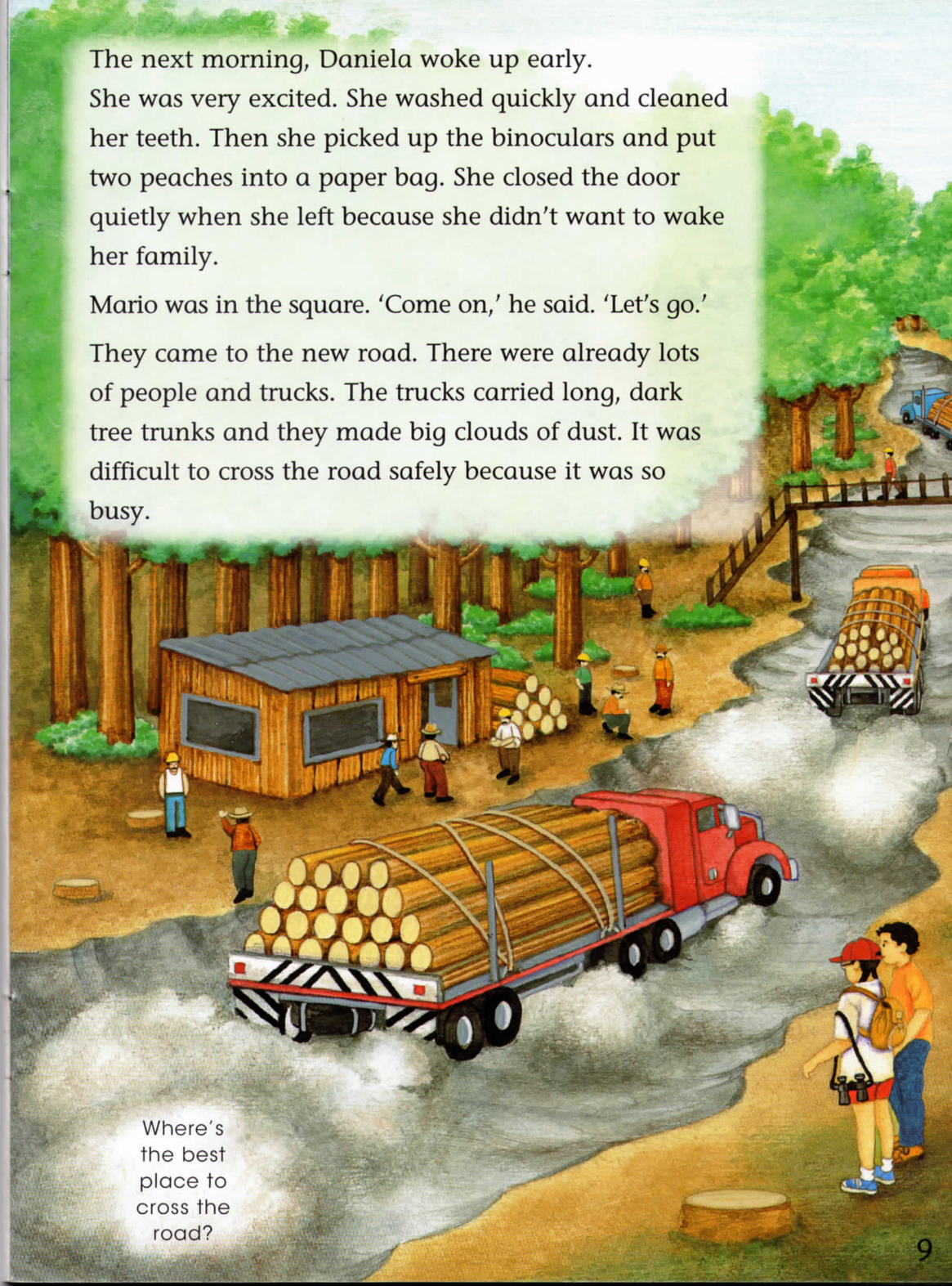
'Yes, I knew they were dinosaur footprints. Let's climb the mountain together, Mario, and you can see the footprints, too.'

'OK. Let's go tomorrow, early in the morning,' said Mario.

'What time?'

'At seven o'clock,' said Mario.

'I can wait for you in the square. This is our secret. Don't tell anyone else,' said Daniela, happily.



The next morning, Daniela woke up early. She was very excited. She washed quickly and cleaned her teeth. Then she picked up the binoculars and put two peaches into a paper bag. She closed the door quietly when she left because she didn't want to wake her family.

Mario was in the square. 'Come on,' he said. 'Let's go.'

They came to the new road. There were already lots of people and trucks. The trucks carried long, dark tree trunks and they made big clouds of dust. It was difficult to cross the road safely because it was so busy.

Where's the best place to cross the road?

Mario was very surprised and excited when he heard the story.

'Look! It says in my book, "There are lots of dinosaur fossils in this part of Mexico", ' he said. ' "A meteorite fell into the sea near here. It changed the climate of the world." '

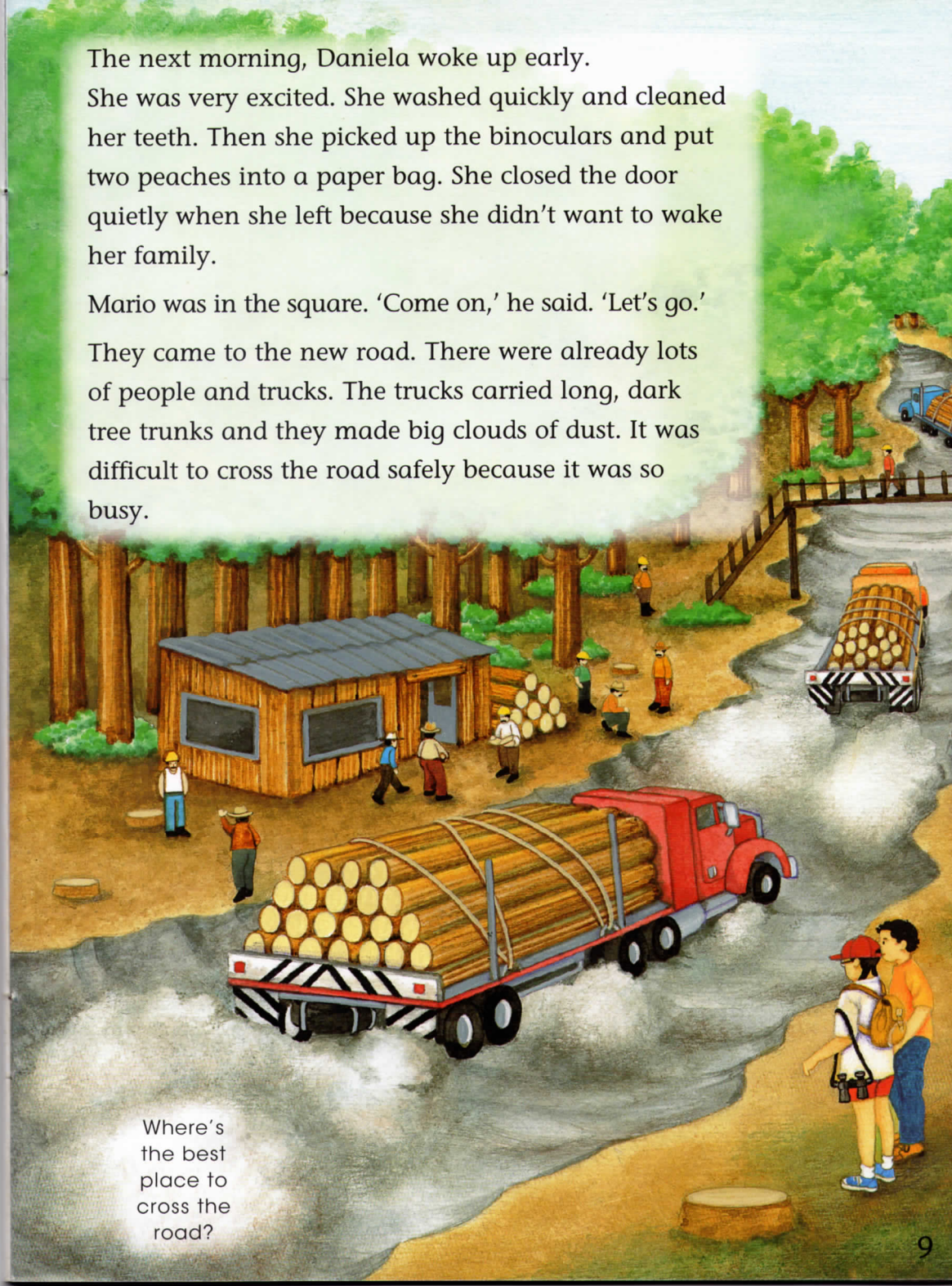
'Yes, I knew they were dinosaur footprints. Let's climb the mountain together, Mario, and you can see the footprints, too.'

'OK. Let's go tomorrow, early in the morning,' said Mario.

'What time?'

'At seven o'clock,' said Mario.

'I can wait for you in the square. This is our secret. Don't tell anyone else,' said Daniela, happily.

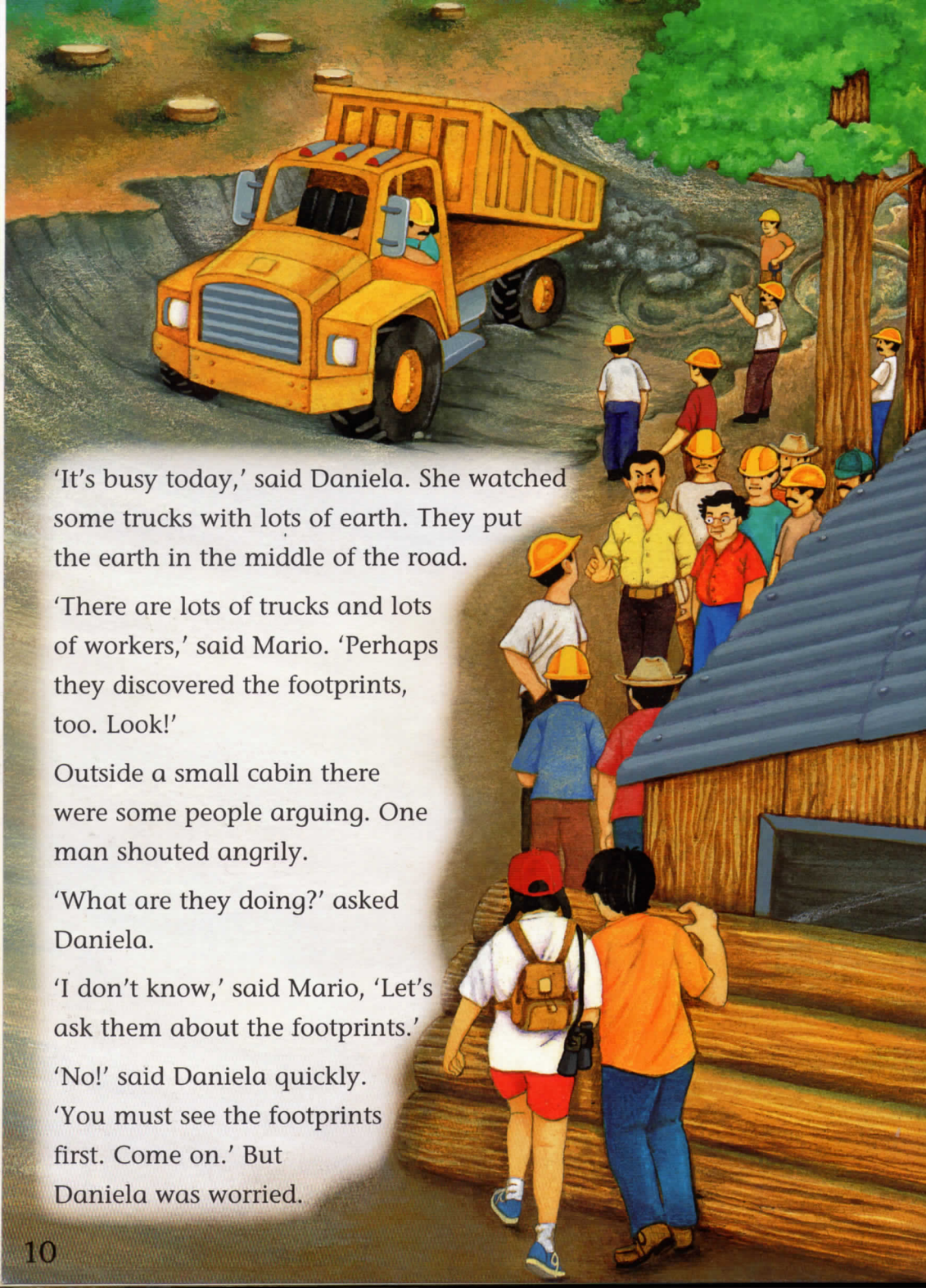


The next morning, Daniela woke up early. She was very excited. She washed quickly and cleaned her teeth. Then she picked up the binoculars and put two peaches into a paper bag. She closed the door quietly when she left because she didn't want to wake her family.

Mario was in the square. 'Come on,' he said. 'Let's go.'

They came to the new road. There were already lots of people and trucks. The trucks carried long, dark tree trunks and they made big clouds of dust. It was difficult to cross the road safely because it was so busy.

Where's the best place to cross the road?



'It's busy today,' said Daniela. She watched some trucks with lots of earth. They put the earth in the middle of the road.

'There are lots of trucks and lots of workers,' said Mario. 'Perhaps they discovered the footprints, too. Look!'

Outside a small cabin there were some people arguing. One man shouted angrily.

'What are they doing?' asked Daniela.

'I don't know,' said Mario, 'Let's ask them about the footprints.'

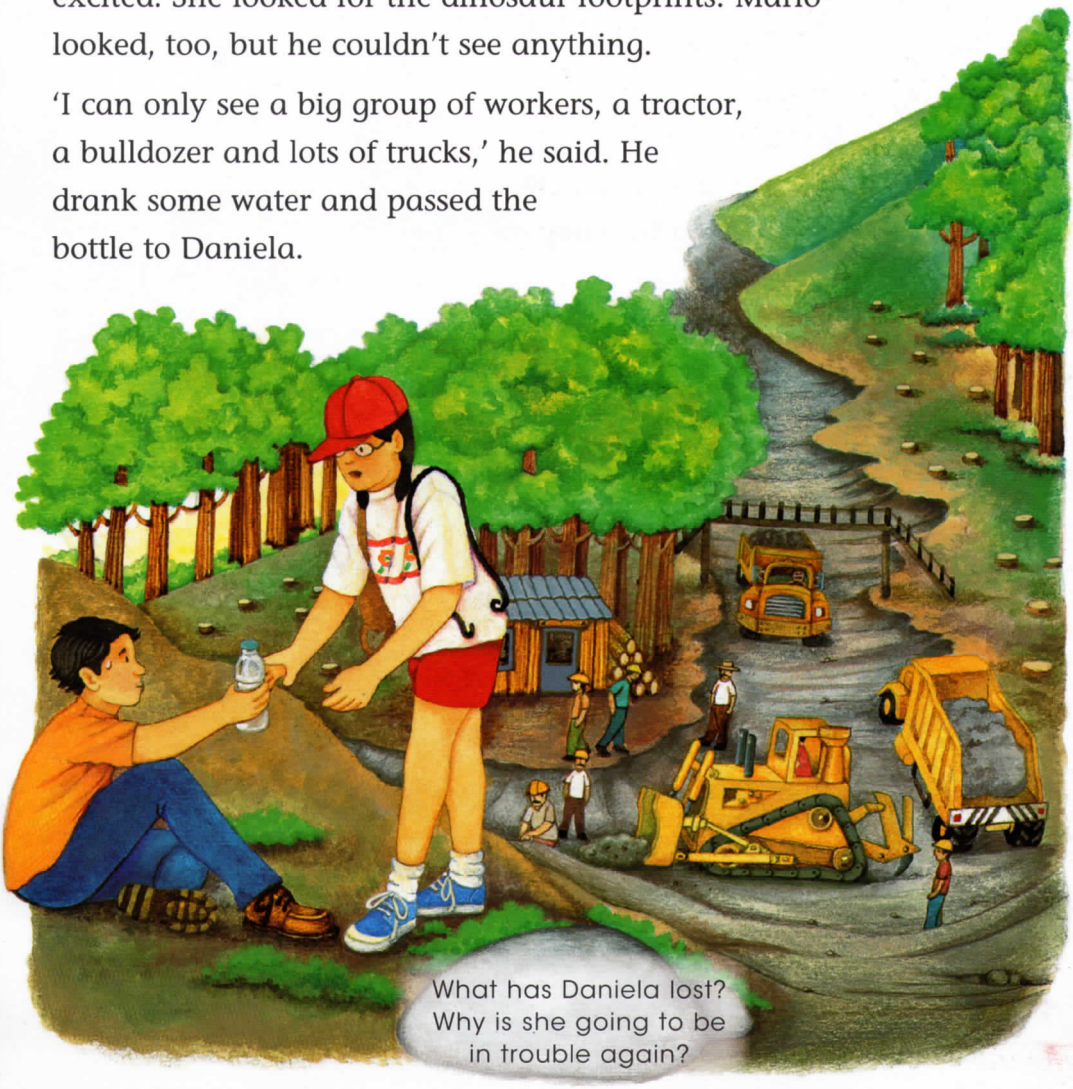
'No!' said Daniela quickly. 'You must see the footprints first. Come on.' But Daniela was worried.

Daniela and Mario climbed the mountain slowly because it was a very hot day. They stopped many times to drink water. Mario was tired and wanted to eat his food.

'We can't stop now,' said Daniela. 'You must wait. We can eat when we get to the top.'

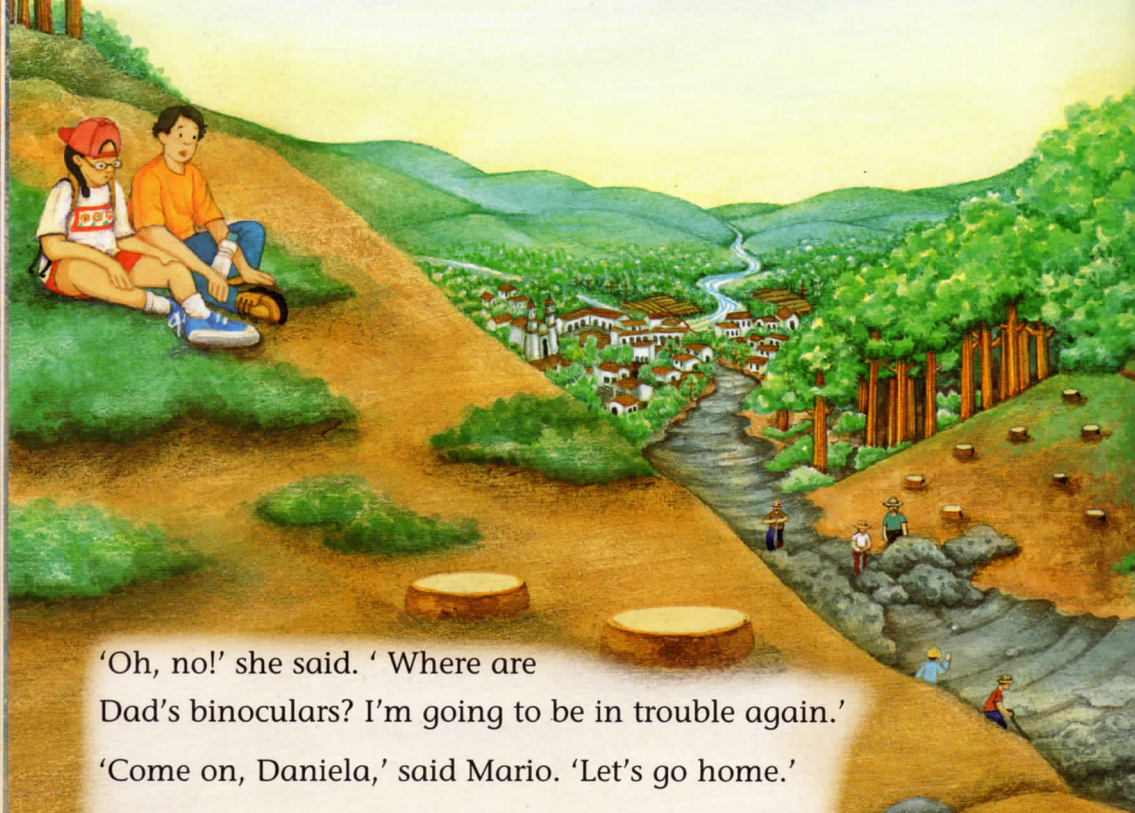
Finally, they sat down in the hot sun. Daniela was very excited. She looked for the dinosaur footprints. Mario looked, too, but he couldn't see anything.

'I can only see a big group of workers, a tractor, a bulldozer and lots of trucks,' he said. He drank some water and passed the bottle to Daniela.



Daniela looked down at the new road. The dinosaur footprints weren't there. Daniela was shocked. Yesterday she saw them so clearly but today there was nothing, only the road and lots of dark new earth.

'I don't understand,' she said. 'I know they were there yesterday. I saw them. Somebody covered them,' she said. Then she remembered the binoculars.



'Oh, no!' she said. ' Where are Dad's binoculars? I'm going to be in trouble again.'

'Come on, Daniela,' said Mario. 'Let's go home.'

The children returned to the village. Mario forgot about the dinosaur footprints, but Daniela didn't. When she went to bed that night, she tried hard to think what to do.

Where are the footprints now?

The next morning, Daniela was very sad. She knew the dinosaur footprints were there, but nobody believed her. 'I must do something,' she said. She got dressed and went to the kitchen for breakfast. When she walked into the room her brother laughed at her.

'Are you going to look for extinct dinosaurs again today, Daniela?' he said.

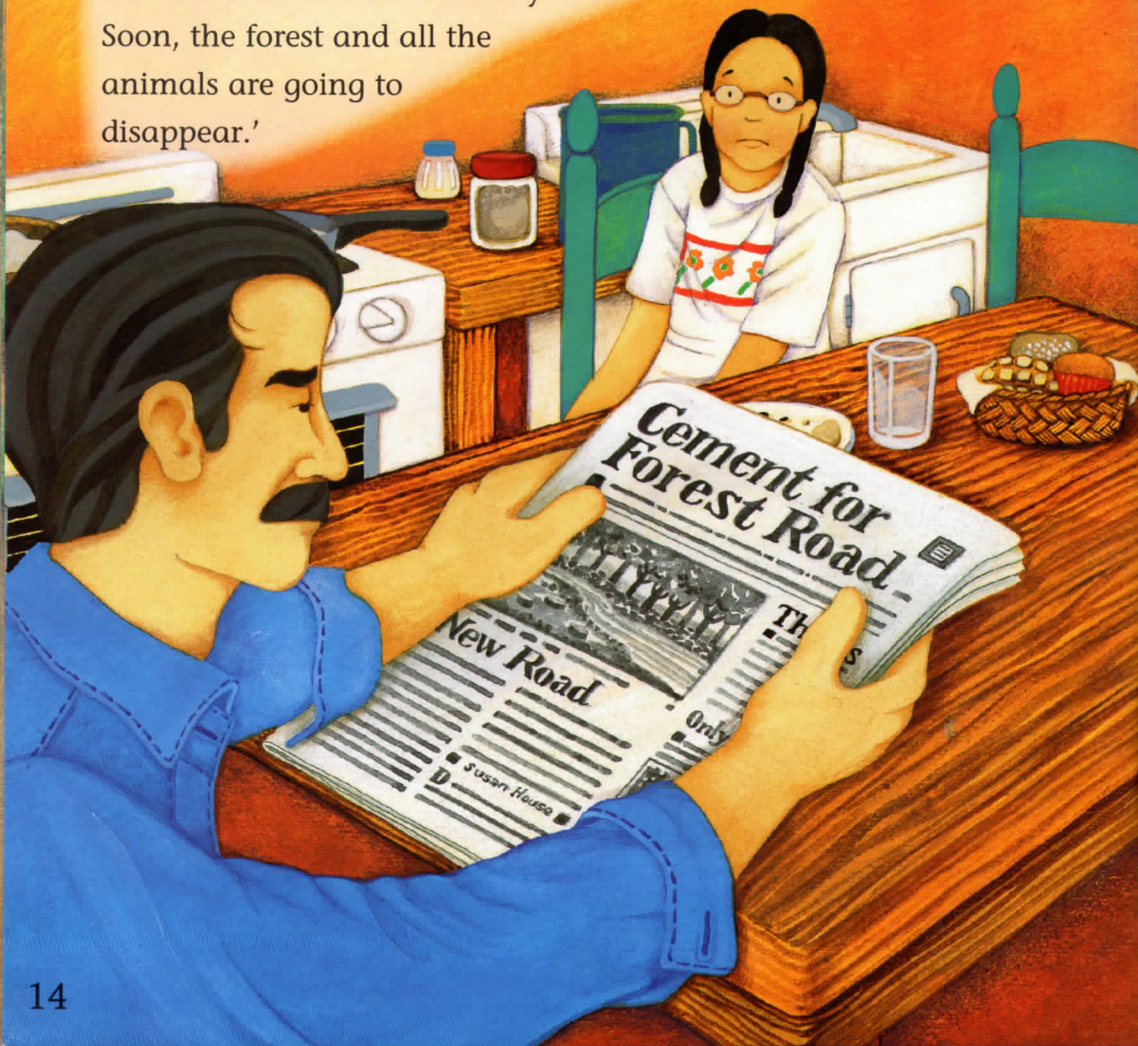
Daniela looked at him angrily but she didn't say anything. She sat down at the table and said, 'I know the footprints are there and I'm going to find them.'

At that moment, their father came into the room. His face was serious.

'Oh, no!' thought Daniela. 'He's angry about the binoculars.'

But her father took a newspaper from his jacket and put it on the table in front of them.

'Tomorrow they're going to come with the cement and finish the new road,' he said. 'With the new road they can take the trees to the city very quickly. In the city they can sell the wood for lots of money. Soon, the forest and all the animals are going to disappear.'



Daniela left the house and went to find her friend Mario. She wanted to climb up the mountain again but Mario didn't want to go with her.

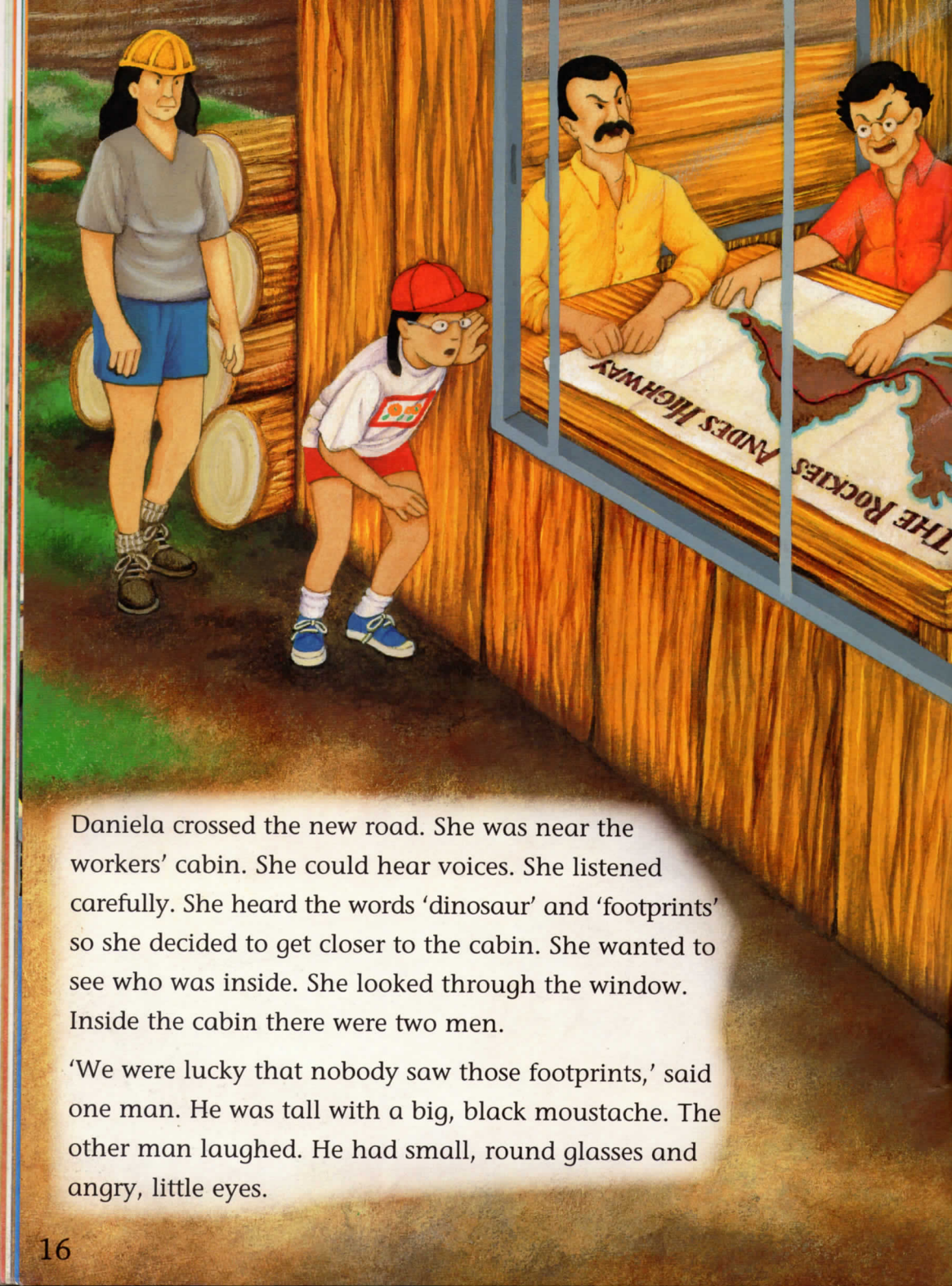
'You're lazy!' shouted Daniela. 'I'm going to go alone. I must find Dad's binoculars, too,' she said and she turned round to walk out of the house.

'I'm not coming. I want to watch the trucks finish the road,' shouted Mario, 'They're going to arrive today.'

'Trucks! Roads! What about the trees and the animals?'

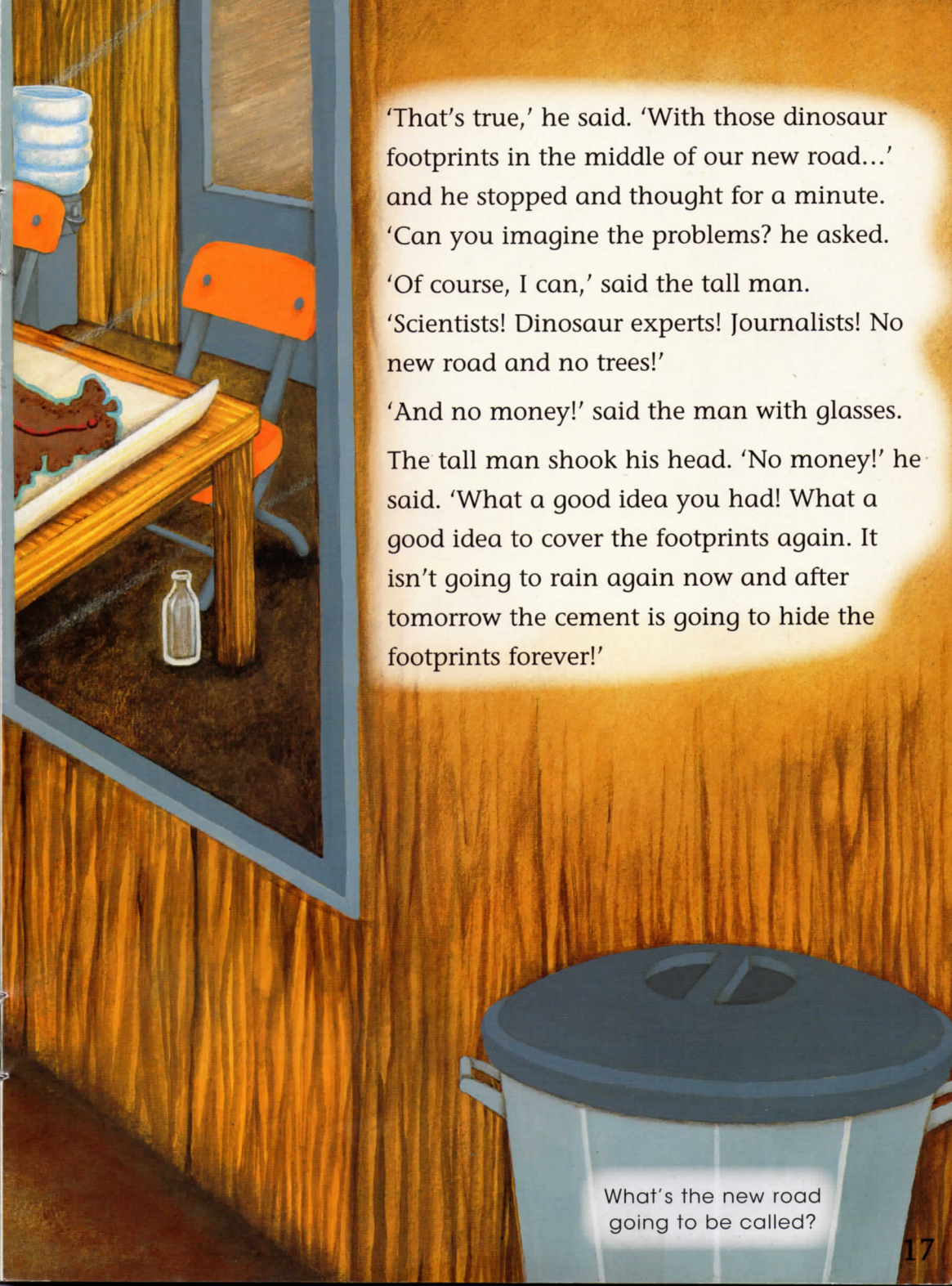
'You can't save the trees. You're only a little girl!'

'Oh, yes, I can,' shouted Daniela. 'I'm going to tell those men about the footprints,' and she ran towards the new road.



Daniela crossed the new road. She was near the workers' cabin. She could hear voices. She listened carefully. She heard the words 'dinosaur' and 'footprints' so she decided to get closer to the cabin. She wanted to see who was inside. She looked through the window. Inside the cabin there were two men.

'We were lucky that nobody saw those footprints,' said one man. He was tall with a big, black moustache. The other man laughed. He had small, round glasses and angry, little eyes.



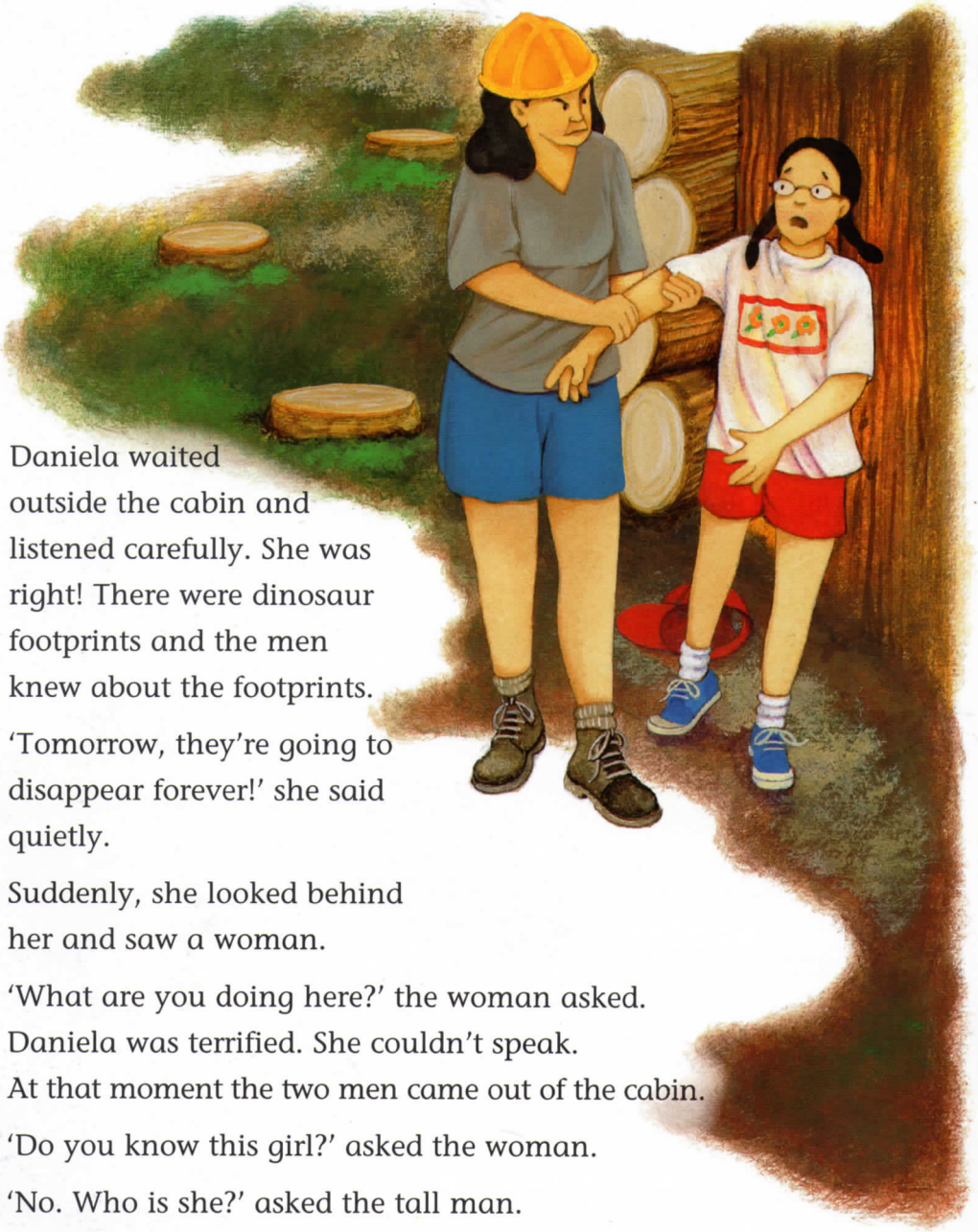
'That's true,' he said. 'With those dinosaur footprints in the middle of our new road...' and he stopped and thought for a minute. 'Can you imagine the problems? he asked.

'Of course, I can,' said the tall man. 'Scientists! Dinosaur experts! Journalists! No new road and no trees!'

'And no money!' said the man with glasses.

The tall man shook his head. 'No money!' he said. 'What a good idea you had! What a good idea to cover the footprints again. It isn't going to rain again now and after tomorrow the cement is going to hide the footprints forever!'

What's the new road going to be called?



Daniela waited outside the cabin and listened carefully. She was right! There were dinosaur footprints and the men knew about the footprints.

'Tomorrow, they're going to disappear forever!' she said quietly.

Suddenly, she looked behind her and saw a woman.

'What are you doing here?' the woman asked.
Daniela was terrified. She couldn't speak.
At that moment the two men came out of the cabin.

'Do you know this girl?' asked the woman.

'No. Who is she?' asked the tall man.

'I don't know. She was behind the cabin.' Said the woman.

'What do you want?' asked the man with glasses.

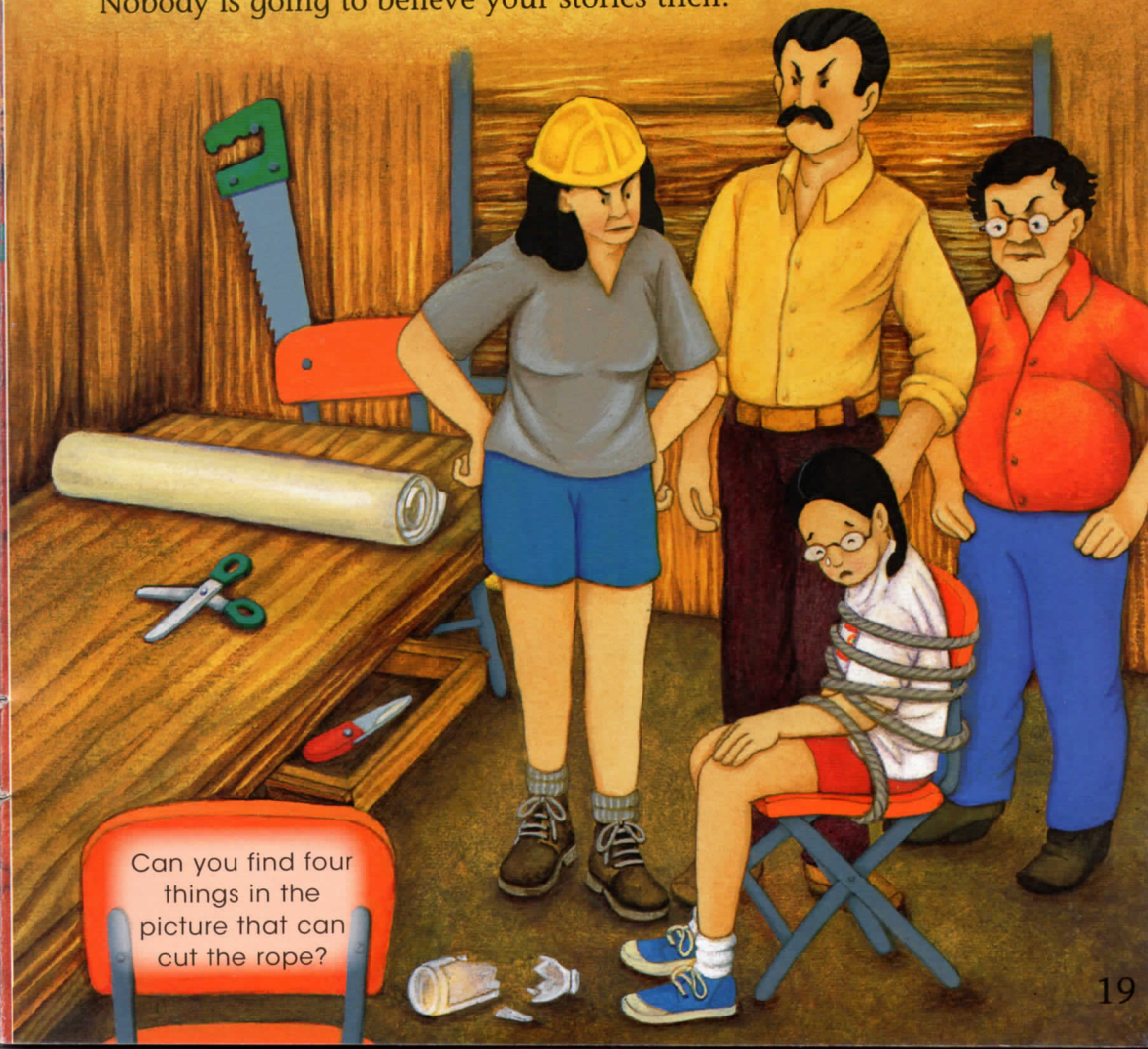
'N-n-n-nothing, Sir,' said Daniela.

The tall man whispered to the other two, 'Maybe she knows about the footprints.'

'No, she is just a stupid girl from the village,' said the woman. 'I'm going to tie her up in the cabin until the road is finished. We don't want any problems now.'

The woman took Daniela into the cabin and tied her to a chair. Daniela was very scared and she cried.

'Stop crying, you silly girl. You can go home tomorrow. Nobody is going to believe your stories then.'



That night, when Daniela didn't come home for dinner, her father was very worried.

'Do you know where Daniela is?' he asked Sam.

'No, Dad. Maybe she's looking for dinosaur footprints. The other day she told me a story about footprints in the forest. I told her to go and play with Mario.'

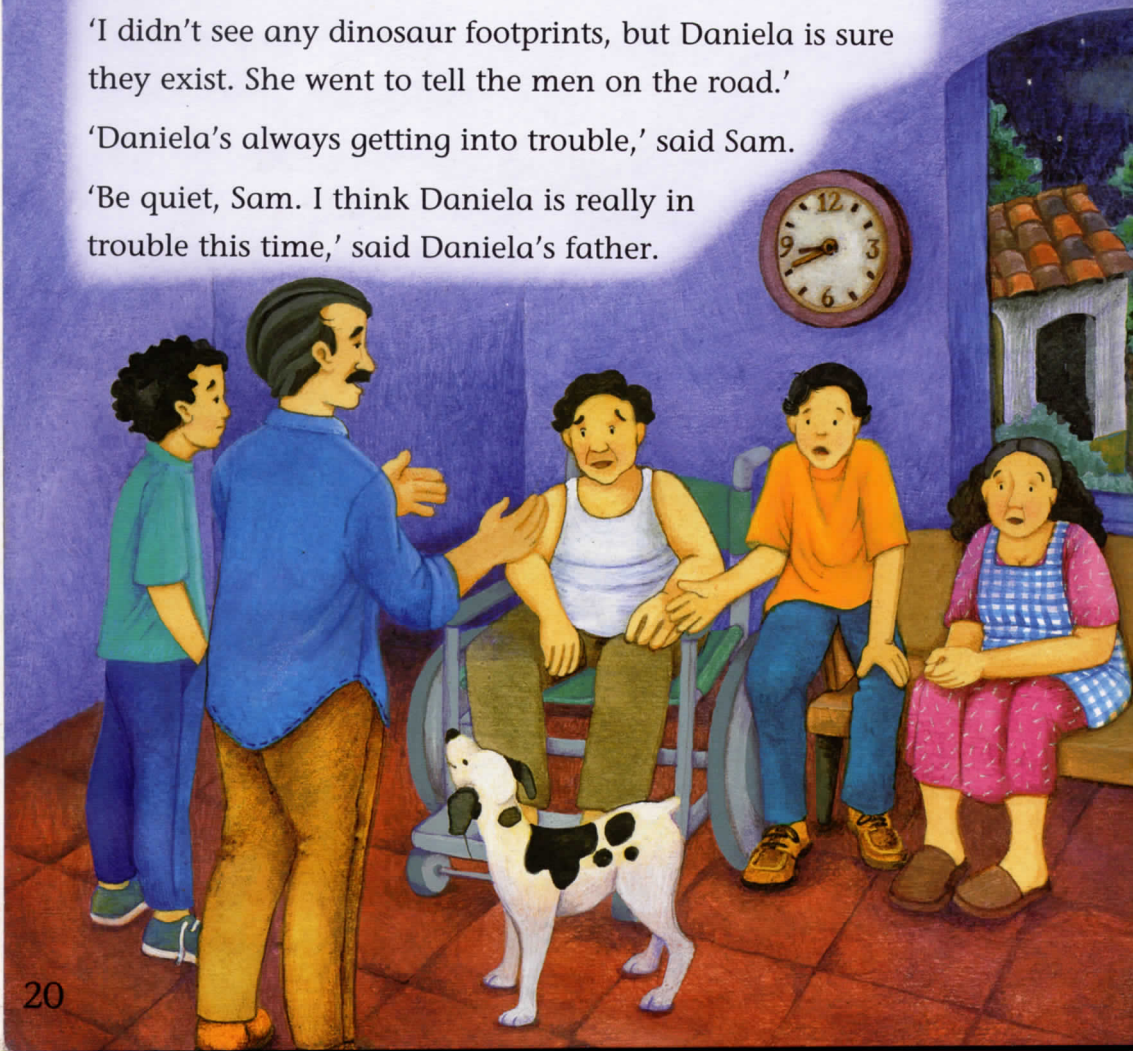
'So, let's go and ask Mario,' said Daniela's father.

When they arrived at Mario's house, he told them about their walk.

'I didn't see any dinosaur footprints, but Daniela is sure they exist. She went to tell the men on the road.'

'Daniela's always getting into trouble,' said Sam.

'Be quiet, Sam. I think Daniela is really in trouble this time,' said Daniela's father.



Daniela's father was very worried. He was sure that Daniela was in danger.

'I know something's wrong,' he said.

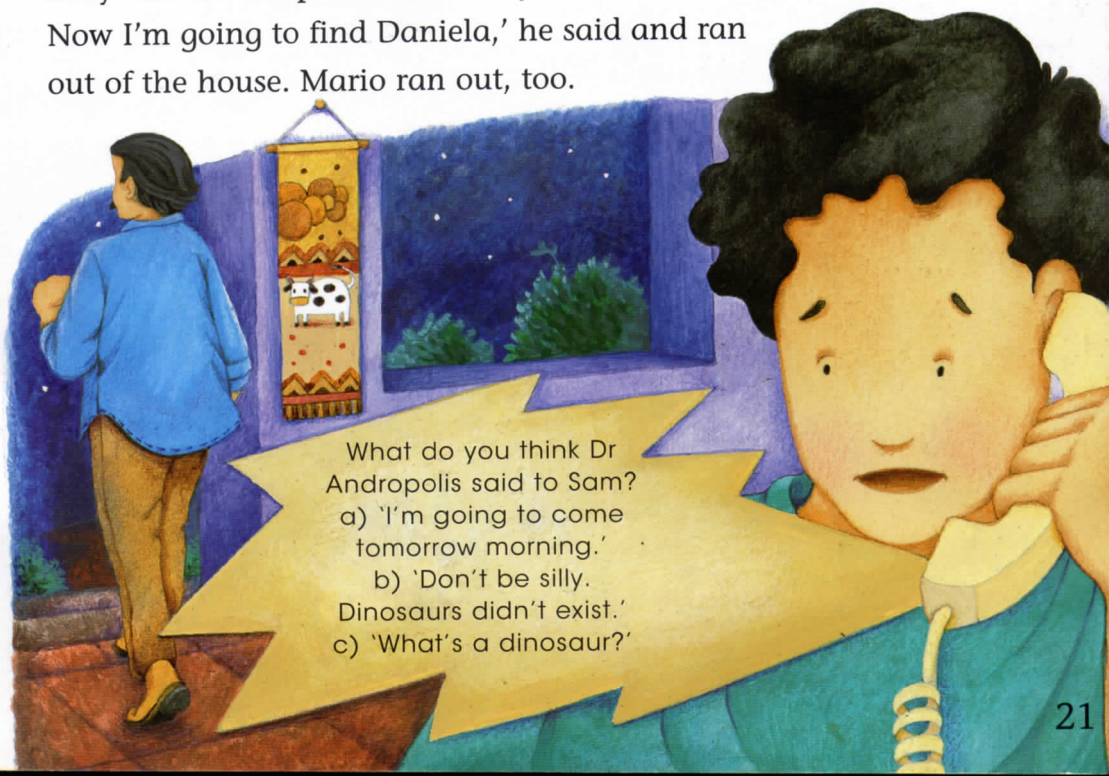
'Do you believe Daniela's story about the footprints?' asked Sam, a little surprised.

His father looked at him seriously.

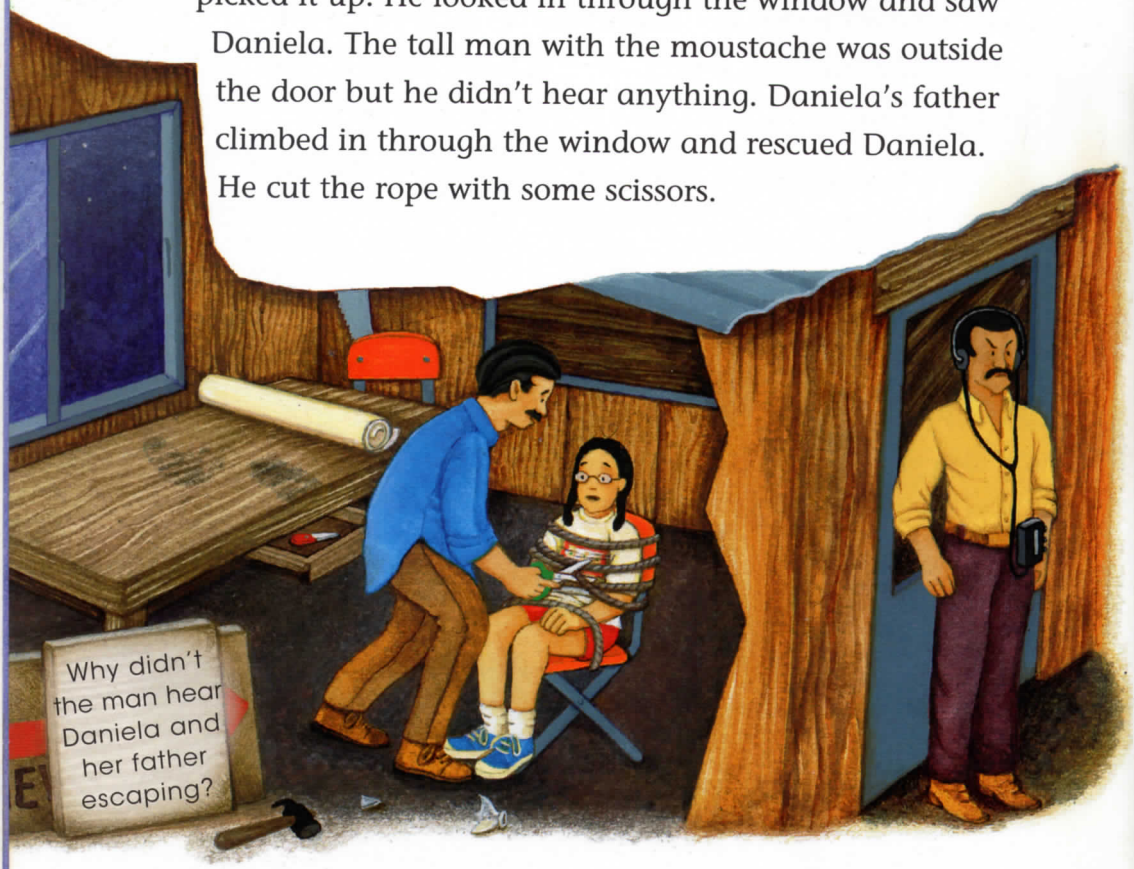
'Of course I believe her,' he said. 'They want to cover the footprints quickly so that they can finish the road. Daniela's in danger.'

'What can we do?' cried Mario.

'Sam, you must telephone Dr Andropolis, the palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum,' he said. 'She's a famous expert on dinosaurs. Tell her the whole story. She can stop the road. They must listen to her. Now I'm going to find Daniela,' he said and ran out of the house. Mario ran out, too.



Daniela's father looked everywhere for her, then suddenly he saw something red on the ground near a cabin. It was Daniela's cap. He walked slowly over to the cabin and picked it up. He looked in through the window and saw Daniela. The tall man with the moustache was outside the door but he didn't hear anything. Daniela's father climbed in through the window and rescued Daniela. He cut the rope with some scissors.



When they arrived home Sam was very happy to see Daniela.

'Oh, Daniela, I'm sorry I laughed at you,' he said.

Then Mario arrived.

'Daniela, I'm so pleased to see you,' he cried. Then he whispered, 'Look! Here are your Dad's binoculars. I ran back to the mountain and found them on the ground.'

'Mario! You saved my life,' laughed Daniela, taking the binoculars.

The next day, Dr Andropolis arrived at eight o'clock in the morning. Daniela explained the whole story to her. They went out of the house and walked towards the new road. The trucks were ready to cover the dinosaur footprints forever. The tall man with the moustache looked very happy. Daniela could just see one of the footprints.

'There, Dr Andropolis!' she cried. 'Look! There they are! Under the earth.'

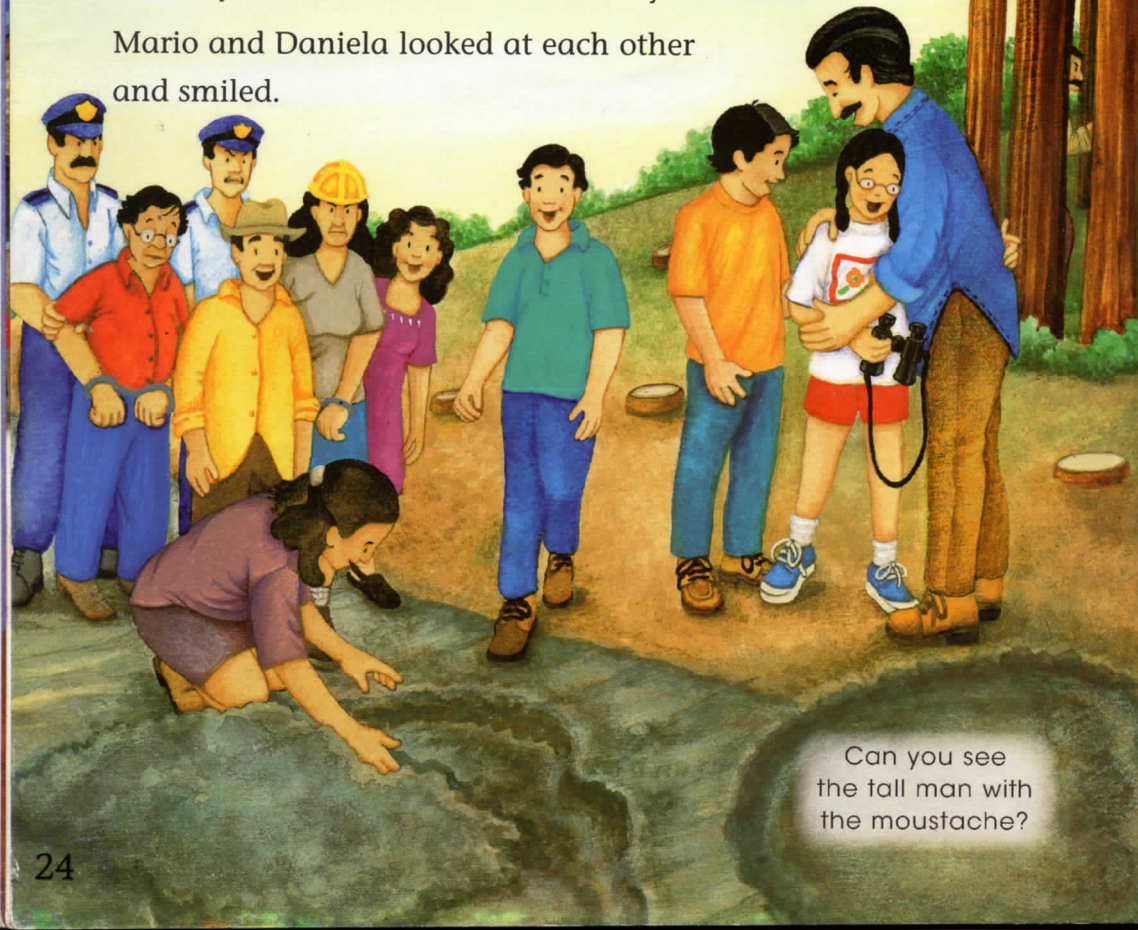
Dr Andropolis began to move the earth away with her hands. She uncovered first one footprint, then another and then another.

'These are the footprints of a Barosaurus - the biggest of all the dinosaurs. This is the most important discovery for the last twenty years. And it is all thanks to this brave girl.'

Dr Andropolis stayed in the village for a few days. She found more footprints. The workers didn't build the road through the forest and they didn't cut down any more trees. The trees, the plants and the animals were safe now.

'Clever girl,' said Daniela's father. 'Here! I'd like you to have my old binoculars. See what else you can find.'

Mario and Daniela looked at each other and smiled.



Can you see the tall man with the moustache?

Primary 1	PRE-STARTERS	-
Primary 2	STARTERS	-
Primary 3	PRE-MOVERS	-
Primary 4	MOVERS	A1
Primary 5	PRE-FLYERS	A1
Primary 6	FLYERS/KET	A2

Daniela doesn't want to be naughty but she is always getting into trouble. She loves dinosaurs and gets very excited when she finds dinosaur footprints in the forest. However, when people come to build the road through the forest the footprints disappear mysteriously. Daniela sets off on a quest to find out what is going on. And as usual she gets into trouble!

WORKSHEETS AVAILABLE FOR TEACHERS!

Richmond PUBLISHING

www.richmondelt.com

ISBN: 978-84-668-1152-1